

# Digital Citizenship Week 2016

*Digital citizens know how to use their devices safely, responsibly, and respectfully.*

Dear Families,

In Bend-La Pine Schools, as well as around the country, the week of October 16-22 has been designated as Digital Citizenship Week. As a parent and an educator, I know first-hand the importance of this topic and believe it is something we need to address with our children as part of their education. Digital devices are part of our society, and their presence can be both an asset and a challenge as we balance productivity, screen time, and being present in the moment with our teachers, friends and families. During this week, it is our hope that as a community we can open ourselves to learning and discussing the role that devices play in our home, school and work lives.

We have identified a digital citizenship focus for each grade level, and teachers will lead discussions around these topics during class times. You can find the the topic for your child's grade level listed to the right. We have also identified a Family Focus for each grade level which you will find described below. It is our hope that this family focus is something you can address throughout the school year in your home. Please make sure to check out the links and other support that our team has compiled and listed on our parent support site (<http://bit.ly/dcfamilysupport>). Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

*Skip Offenhauser*

*Executive Director of Instructional Technology and Curriculum  
Bend-La Pine Schools*

## FAMILY FOCUS FOR TENTH GRADE: TECHNOLOGY AND RELATIONSHIPS

In today's connected world, the definition of a relationship has changed. No longer does a relationship involve solely talking on the phone or going over to someone's house. Social media allows us to establish and maintain relationships in many different ways. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter - these are all platforms parents should be aware of because these tools are how teens often establish and maintain relationships. According to the website iKeepSafe, 70% of people report that the Internet has helped them improve their relationships, however occasionally unhealthy or even dangerous relationships can develop online, too. Parents can help influence and support their teen by having discussions about how to conduct themselves online. They can also join in and use this new medium as means to stay connected. Parents can use tools like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter to share links, photos, thoughts and advice with their teen. These tools can also be used to establish online relationships with relatives that live far away to keep them connected with family. But most of all-remember nothing replaces face-to-face communication so regularly put away devices for quality family time together.



**Tenth Grade**  
Technology and  
Relationships



**DISCUSS**

What are some of the positive and negative ways technology affects our relationships?



**ACCESS RESOURCES**

Please visit our parent support site:  
<http://bit.ly/dcfamilysupport>



**PARTICIPATE**

What will your family pledge to do (or not do) with your digital devices this week? If you use Twitter, Facebook or Instagram please share and use the hashtag **#blsdigitalcitizens**. You may be featured on our website!